

impotency to deal with movements that should  
 be pnt down  
 and of rancorous stupidity in declining to  
 abandon the  
 kind of reaction and policy which can do  
 nothing but harm.  
 Moreover, usually entirely without meaning it,  
 they are  
 singularly callous to the needs, sufferings, and  
 feelings of  
 the great mass of the people who work with  
 their hands.  
 They show this in their attitude toward such  
 a matter as  
 the employers' liability till. They are simply  
 unable to  
 understand what it means to a working  
 man's family to  
 have the breadwinner killed or crippled. They  
 are not able  
 to grasp the unmerited and dreadful suffering  
 thus brought  
 on many different people. Heaven knows how  
 cordially I  
 despise Jefferson, but he did have one great  
 virtue which  
 his Federalist opponents lacked—he stood for  
 the plain  
 people, whom Abraham Lincoln afterwards  
 represented.

"By the way, speaking of Jefferson, isn't it  
 humiliating  
 to realize that Jefferson—who I think was, not  
 even except-  
 ing Buchanan, the most incompetent chief  
 executive we ever  
 had, and whose well-nigh, solitary service as  
 President to  
 his country, the acquisition of Louisiana, was  
 rendered by  
 adopting the Federalist principles which he had  
 most fierce-  
 ly denounced—isn't it humiliating to think  
 that he should  
 have been, as President, rather more popular  
 than Wash-  
 ington himself at the very close of his  
 administration, and  
 that almost all the State legislatures,  
 excluding Massa-  
 chusetts but including Rhode Island and  
 Vermont, should  
 have petitioned him to serve for another term

and should  
have sent him formal messages of grateful  
thanks for his  
services after his term was over? We lived  
through Jefferson's administration, though he did us  
much damage;  
and we could live through Bryan or a  
reactionary; but I  
do not want to see the experience tried."

To a clergyman who had differed with him  
about placing  
"In God We Trust"<sup>1</sup> on the new coinage, he  
wrote on  
November 11, 1907:

"When the question of the new coinage  
came up we  
looked into the law and found there was no  
warrant therein